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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

50X1-HUM

INFORMATION REPORT

COUNTRY USSR

50X1-HUM

SUBJECT Estimate of the Malenkov Regime/~~possible~~ Zhdanov-
Group Opposition to Malenkov/Forecast of Malenkov's
Foreign Policy

PLACE ACQUIRED

DATE ACQUIRED

DATE (OF INFO.)

DATE DISTR. 16 Apr 1953

NO. OF PAGES 3

NO. OF ENCLS.

SUPP. TO
REPORT NO.

50X1-HUM

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THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

1. The death of a dictator in a totalitarian country means more than the death of a king or president in a normal country. It seems trite to say that Stalin cannot be replaced easily, he was a leader and dictator. This type of person is not elected nor found; they become dictators or leaders by themselves. Stalin became the real boss of the USSR gradually after many struggles and removals of opposition.
2. Now the USSR has a new leader in the person of Malenkov who is intelligent, a good worker, a reckless person, deeply indoctrinated, knows how to run the Party and how to command a totalitarian government. He was Stalin's secretary for many years and is probably the person most prepared to take the tough job of dictator of the USSR. There seems to be no doubt about his being appointed by Stalin to take over the job. Malenkov sat at the right of Stalin during the last Party congress meetings. He compiled and read the report to the Congress and apparently Stalin agreed with everything Malenkov said. Stalin's death did not come unexpectedly and it has since been proven that the change in command was well organized. Other important developments in the USSR were the reorganization of the Central Committee of the Communist Party, dissolution of the Politburo and the renaming of the Party.
3. Although Stalin was dictator it would have been impossible for him to appoint Malenkov as his successor against the will of all the other members of the Soviet government and Central Committee of the Party. There is no doubt about the fact that part of the Central Committee and Soviet government were in agreement with Stalin and supported the appointment of Malenkov. It cannot be expected that everyone was delighted at Malenkov's appointment and there is hidden opposition but what is more important is that Malenkov has strong supporters.

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4. Although the transition ran smoothly it is evident that Malenkov did not trust all those persons elected or appointed at the last Party Congress to various jobs in the Central Committee and that he did not trust certain members of the government. Only a few days elapsed after Stalin's death when Malenkov and his closest collaborators removed a number of people from their jobs.
- *5. Malenkov is the Party Committee Secretary and Prime Minister. This is very significant and resembles greatly the situation on the eve of the German invasion of the USSR, when Stalin, in 1940 became both Party Secretary and Prime Minister after Molotov had been Prime Minister for several years. Malenkov's retention of both key jobs may be evidence to the fact that a crisis is to be expected in the USSR.
6. Beria as number two man is master and boss of the secret police. He seems to be in full agreement with Malenkov. He is not Malenkov's rival probably because he is a Georgian and the present nationalistic tendencies in the USSR prevent anyone who is not a Great Russian from being the Party and Government boss. Further, as head of the secret police, Beria is thoroughly disliked by the common people because of his position past and present and it would not do at all to have someone like him as head of state. Beria was a close friend of Stalin's and has worked with Malenkov for many years so it seems very unlikely that trouble will develop between these two men.
7. Molotov as the Foreign Minister still has an important job and he certainly was not by-passed. He is not jealous of Malenkov and there are no bad feelings between them. Molotov has always been a good executive but he was never a creative master or moulder of Soviet policies. Under Stalin he carried out the things that were created by a greater mind; he put life into Stalin's inventions. Molotov knows his strengths and weaknesses and that he is almost indispensable as an executive. With the support of Beria and Molotov there can be no question about Malenkov's position as Head of the State.
8. Bulganin is a very able person and is the Defense Minister. Khrushchev, the Party Secretary of the Ukraine is not a Great Russian by birth. He worked with Malenkov and Scherbakov, who died a few years ago. These men were a triumvirate within the Party Committee and the Politburo. Both Bulganin and Khrushchev are strong supporters of Malenkov. Marshal Zhukov, Deputy Defense Minister, is evidently an old and trusted friend of Malenkov's because he was taken out of the disgrace into which he had fallen after World War II and was brought to Moscow immediately after Malenkov took over. Voroshilov, Soviet President, is an old-timer and one of the few survivors of the old Guard. Actually his job as president is unimportant. Kaganovich is a very able person but as a Jew he offers Malenkov no competition and neither does Mikoyan because he is an Armenian. Thus, Malenkov's environment consists of people who are friendly to him or are not dangerous in any respect.
9. The danger in Malenkov's situation may come from another side and this could be the Zhdanov group. It is well known that Malenkov and Zhdanov were rivals. Soon after Zhdanov's death his friends and supporters were removed; some disappeared completely the most notable being Andreyev. Shvernik was removed from office the day Malenkov took over as were other persons suspected of being Zhdanovites. It seems obvious that Beria will see to the early liquidation of all those persons connected with the Zhdanov group.
10. As mentioned above, a dictator is not made and neither is he elected. Malenkov has become the official head of the USSR but it is up to him to become the real dictator. One thing is certain, the greater the opposition, the more cruel and dictatorial Malenkov will become.
11. It is not likely that there will be any marked change in the USSR in the immediate future -- things will run along pretty much as they did under Stalin during the last few months of his life. As long as Malenkov remains as the Head of State there will be no relaxation of present world tensions. Malenkov is one of the greatest haters of the Western World. He is one of the most hateful Great Russians.

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chauvinists and a reckless Communist. He is a notorious isolationist and would like to seal off his world behind the Iron Curtain. It is more than a hypothesis that the recent incidents involving Soviet and Satellite planes have been ordered to provoke a breakdown of relations between the Iron Curtain countries and the free world. It is also clear that if Malenkov were sure of a victory he would start a global war tomorrow rather than day after tomorrow.

12. Malenkov will support the anti-Western uprisings and Communist plots all over the world. He will support the Reds in Korea and a limited active interference of Soviet war machinery in the Korean War is not beyond the limits of possibility. New developments can be expected in Europe soon as Malenkov realizes that a German army cannot be established in the next year and a half. Malenkov will probably order a Communist invasion of Taiwan or at least provoke an invasion of the Chinese mainland by Chiang Kai-shek's troops; an invasion which will lead to collapse of Chiang's regime and to an easy Red conquest of Taiwan.
13. It is my opinion that the following events will transpire under Malenkov's direction within the near future:
 - (a) The war in Korea will take a more acute shape. Mass attacks will occur and there will be a real effort by the Reds to take all of Korea.
 - (b) Increased military action in Indochina.
 - (c) The Iranian crisis will take a more dangerous turn with revolution being a possibility.
 - (d) Full communization of Eastern Germany and provocative incidents in Western Germany.
 - (e) New attempts to expell the Western Powers from Berlin.

- end -

- * /Since paragraph 5 of above was written, Malenkov has given up his post as Party Committee Secretary. An Associated Press London dispatch in the New York Times of 21 Mar 53 said: "LONDON, 20 March -- Nikita S Khrushchev, a fast rising Ukrainian Soviet politician, appeared tonight to have stepped into an old job of his boss, Premier Georgi M Malenkov. The job is leadership of the powerful Central Committee of the Soviet Communist Party. The Moscow radio reported the committee met in plenary session March 14 'to accede to the request of the Chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers (Premier) G M Malenkov for his release from duties as secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union.' The committee elected a five-man Secretariat. Mr Khrushchev's name was the first mentioned, indicating that he would be head man of the Secretariat. He already is a member of the ruling Presidium of the Supreme Soviet." 7

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